

Kathryn H. Shelton
Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,
& Museums
PO Box 110571
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0571
907.465.2910



Bruce Kato
Chief Curator

Alaska State Museums
395 Whittier St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718
907.465.2901
www.museums.state.ak.us

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION: **Bob Banghart**
Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976
www.museums.state.ak.us

DATE: October 13, 2008

HISTORIC FIREARMS EXHIBIT TO CLOSE AT STATE MUSEUM

This is the last week to view an exhibition of historic firearms on display at the Alaska State Museum. The exhibition, which includes guns that once belonged to such colorful characters from Alaska's past as "Soapy" Smith, Jack Dalton and Lt. Fredrick Schwatka, will close on Saturday, October 11. Approximately two dozen rifles and pistols, cannon, and other related materials are on view. The items are from the museum's collection as well as from other museums and private collections.

The smallest gun is a Colt Derringer that once belonged to Jefferson "Soapy" Smith, the most notorious figure from the Klondike Gold Rush, who was killed in a shoot-out in Skagway in 1898. The largest piece in the show is a Japanese anti-tank gun on wheels, captured in the Aleutians during World War II.

Other early firearms being shown include trade muskets and pistols, both flintlock and percussion type. These guns were often used by early traders to barter with Native groups along the Northwest Coast.

Three other current temporary exhibitions at the museum, including "Raucous: Everything Raven," "Alaska Positive 2008" and "Scenes of Sitka," will be on display an additional week, closing on October 18.

Hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

[Alaska State Museums Home](#) | [Press Releases](#) | [Alaska State Museum](#)